aforesaid period as compared to the national statitistics; and

(c) the number of applications received from the farmers for providing loans during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The details of loans provided by scheduled commercial banks in Assam for agriculture and its percentage to total loans (All-India), as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

As on the last Friday of	Advances disbursed				Percentage to Net Bank Credit
	Assam		All-India		
	A/cs	Amount	A/cs	Amount	
June 1993	22575	13.51	5054093	4962.18	0.27
June 1994	16480	14.18	5269266	5632.67	0.32
June 1995 (latest available)	30585	18.46	6278108	8042.53	0.23

State-wise details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(c) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate such information.

Foreign Banks reducing branches in West Bengal

4489. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the move of a number of foreign banks to reduce the number of branches in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ANZ Grindlays Bank has closed/merged five out of eighteen branches in Calcutta under its redistribution plan. The Considerations for closure/merger of branches are as under:

1. Close proximity to another branch of the bank

2. Past performance below expected level; and

3. Low future potential.

Citi Bank has closed one out of its two branches in Calcutta on commercial consideration.

Revival package of Dunlop India Limited

4490. SHRI JIBON ROY:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dunlop Management has proposed a revival package before BIFR;

(b) if so, the main points of the package;

(c) whether the management claimed that the company would earn profit in 18 months if the package is approved; and

(d) the help given by Government to revive the premier sick company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) to (d) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that M/s Dunlop India Limited was registered with the BIFR on 3.2.1998 and was declared sick on 22.6.1998 under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

In the BIFR hearing held on 22.6.1998, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) was appointed as the Operating Agency (DA). The company was directed by the BIFR to submit its revival proposal to the DA within 6 weeks and IDBI was directed to submit its report within 12 weeks. Further action will be taken by BIFR in accordance with the provisions of SICA.

Delay in Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project

4491. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which water supply and sewerage project assisted by OECF Japan has not commenced even though the project had been approved in the year 1996;

(b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has objected to the project and has directly written not to sanction the project to the aid agency;

(c) whether a State Government can directly deal with the aid agency without Government of India's approval; and

(d) what action Government propose to take for speedy implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The loan agreement for Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project was signed with OECF on 25.1.1996. The project implementation commenced after loan effectuation on 26.3.1996.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Tamil Nadu has since been requested that all such issues should be taken up through Ministry of Finance rather than directly with the funding agency i.e., OECF.

(d) The project is being implemented by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board. Government is closely monitoring the progress. Expenditure during June, 1998 was Rs. 0.16 crores for a cumulative expenditure of Rs. 0.36 crores during 98-99.

Excise Duty on Pan Masala and Mouth Freshner

4492. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of excise duty imposed on Pan Masala and Mouth Freshner;

(b) whether Government are aware that not only major ingredients and other ingredients differ but also the perscentage of common ingredients differ in the case of Pan Masala and Mouth Freshner;

(c) if so, the details of ingredients and their percentage used in these two projects;

(d) whether Government considers that classification of Pan Masala and Mouth Freshner under one category is not justified; and

(e) if so, whether Government would consider exemption/reduction of excise duty on Mouth Freshner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) Pan masala and Mouth freshner falling under sub-heading No. 2106.00 of the Central Excise Tariff attract excise duty of 40% ad valoram.